

22 March 1962

SUBJECT: Notes on Special Group Meeting, 22 March 1962

1. Discussion of CIA/State/Defense papers on policy with respect to publicity on reconnaissance operations. It is the consensus of the meeting that Defense should proceed with their plans for greater secrecy and concurrently we should attempt to develop public opinion that outer space overflights of any and all countries and for any purpose is a permissible action under a concept of international law. Working Committee to be formed for purpose of studying and developing this concept.

ACTION: CIA should keep this matter under constant surveillance and be prepared to serve on the Committee; also I would like translation of the G. Zhukov article, "Space Espionage Plans and International Law", referred to on pages 4 and 5 of our paper #40/62. Appropriate Divisions should develop established positions of Soviets or other foreigners on legal aspects of outer space overflights.

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ACTION: Mr. Johnson asked specifically evaluation of CIA estimate of probability of success and of attribution if -

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This question to be presented in writing by State; however we should get exact wording from Mr. Johnson.

4. [ ] paper put over.

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5. CIA paper [ ] [ ] approved subject to approval by higher authority. 25X1

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6. Political action in [ ]

7. McCone brought up question of CIA objection to peripheral flights to survey Soviet long range air force bases as approved at the March 15 Special Group Meeting subject to final release by Mr. Johnson after Secretary Rusk's return. I stated that CIA felt the justification for these 5 flights very weak, information to be gained was marginal, and that there was risk of an incident similar to the RB 47 incident and this would have serious effects on other operations. Gilpatric agreed to review subject and withhold for further discussion and final agreement with CIA.

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ACTION: [ ] memorandum to me of 21 March on above subject should be expanded and used for discussions with JCS. Question of COMOR authority over all flights over denied territory raised and subject to be discussed by McCone, Gilpatric with JCS.

JOHN A. McCONE  
Director

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SECRET